

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Media Advisory

Date: August 10, 2004  
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### **State Inspectors to Check Iowa State Fair Midway Games**

DES MOINES, IOWA C Inspectors from the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) will conduct a walk-through of the Iowa State Fair midway at 1 p.m., Thursday, August 12. Inspectors will be checking the concession games to make sure that they are fair and honest. Agents from the Iowa Department of Public Safety's Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) will be accompanying state inspectors on the midway walk-through.

DIA inspectors yearly conduct checks of all games of skill or chance at the Iowa State Fair, as well as county fairs and exhibitions. State regulators make sure the object of each game is attainable and possible for the average person to perform under the rules of the game. Additionally, inspectors make sure that the rules of the game are clearly posted, the cost to play each game does not exceed \$3, and that all prizes are awarded in merchandise.

State law does not require that Iowans can win each game at a fair or carnival. However, the games must be fair and the results must be attainable by the average individual without the assistance of special skills or devices.

The Department's Social and Charitable Gambling Unit is responsible for licensing and regulating all amusement concession games – such as those at the Iowa State Fair – as well as bingo operations, raffles, and annual game nights. DCI agents are responsible for enforcing the state's social and charitable gambling laws. Representatives from the DIA and DCI will periodically make surprise visits to the midway during this year's State Fair to make sure that the carnival operators are adhering to all licensing requirements.